

Reserves To Occupy Big Tract

Program to Start
This Summer

A tract of approximately 1,500 acres in the vicinity of the Joliet Arsenal will be used as a training area for Army reserve units, beginning this summer, the Fifth U. S. Army headquarters in Chicago announced today.

This sector includes an area which has been under development as the Des Plaines Wildlife Area. Weekend training by reserve troop units will be closely regulated, with regard given to preservation of the area as a wildlife refuge.

Use of the new training ground will be administered by Headquarters, Northern Illinois Sector, XI U. S. Army Corps (Reserve), at 536 S. Clark St., Chicago.

First priority will be granted requests from organized XI Corps Reserve units in Illinois. Regular armed forces units not having suitable training areas at their home stations will also receive consideration.

Area allocations for training will be specifically defined, and no training will be conducted unless a commissioned officer is present to supervise and be responsible for training within the defined area. Gates are kept locked and keys can be obtained only by those authorized to gain entrance, sector officials stated.

In line with established Army policy for periodical review of land area needs and utilization, it recently was determined that the 1,500 acres of Joliet Arsenal property were in excess to current Army Ordnance requirements and would be made available to fulfill Fifth Army's need for a reserve training area.

This use, the Army emphasized, will not interfere with continued development of this area by the state as part of the Des Plaines Wildlife Area.

The acreage is 15 miles southwest of Joliet, along U. S. Highway 66.

Live ammunition will not be used. Blank ammunition may be fired, under specific limitations.

Blackout driving will not be conducted off the Kankakee River Drive and extension, except when the vehicle is preceded by two men walking five yards to the front.

In order that the area may continue as a game refuge, hunting and fishing will not be permitted at any time by active Army or reserve personnel participating in weekend training. This condition is not intended to preclude the firing of blank ammunition in the course of training.

This area will not be used for training purposes during that period of the year established by the state as the pheasant hunting season, currently Nov. 11-30.